



**SEATTLE FIRE
DEPARTMENT
PREVENTION
DIVISION**

PRESCHOOL FIRE SAFETY FUN

SPRING 2003

IS IT A TOOL? OR IS IT A TOY?

Teaching children the difference between tools and toys can be a life saving lesson. Children watch intently as grown-ups use tools to get things done. They see parents and caregivers cutting with scissors, cooking at the stove, mowing the lawn, working on the car and other tasks that involve tools that are dangerous to young children. Preschool age children often try to mimic what they see the grown-ups in their life doing. Tragedy can strike when young children access these grown-up tools and try to use them.



Prevention is the best way to reduce the risk of a child injuring his/her self or others. Remove all ignition sources from a child's environment. Keep them locked up, out of reach and out of sight. Additionally, watch children carefully at restaurants and stores. Matches and lighters are often well within a child's reach at these locations. Restaurants often leave matches on the table or in a bowl by the register and many stores have them within easy reach near the check-out line. Common areas of parks and apartment complexes are other areas children often come across matches or lighters that have been carelessly left behind. Teach your preschooler to recognize these objects and to tell a grown-up whenever they find them. They should never touch them.

Supervision of young children is critical to preventing fire and burn injuries. A common thread in all child-set fires is access to an ignition tool and a lapse in supervision. Watching children carefully and knowing that when you can't watch them, that they are being well supervised by a responsible adult you know and trust are very important to reducing fire and burn injuries in young children.

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PROGRAM
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Matches, lighters, barbecue igniters and other such sources of flame are tools that pose a serious burn injury threat to young children. According to the United States Fire Administration over 30% of the fires that kill children are set by children playing with fire. Sadly, children under the age of 5 have twice the fire death rate as does the rest of the population.

But such tragedies can be prevented. As caregivers we need to set a positive example for our preschoolers. We need to always use tools appropriately in their presence. They are very curious about "why" we do things. Explain to them, in simple terms, why tools are useful and who can safely use them (i.e., grown-ups).

**THE FIRST GREAT GIFT
WE CAN BESTOW ON
OTHERS IS A GOOD
EXAMPLE.
— THOMAS MORELL**

LESSON PLAN

TOOLS OR TOYS

MATERIALS:

- Books about tools
- **Safe for Play! Keep Away!** Story cards from the PS!BS! kit
- A collection of common tools such as hammer, screwdriver, saw, scissors, shovel, etc.
- A spent child-resistant lighter (has no fuel, cannot be ignited)
- A book of matches with the heads cut off so they cannot be ignited
- A collection of toys. Perhaps have each child bring his/her favorite toy to class or pick his/her favorite toy from the classroom.
- 3 baskets

PURPOSE:

To teach preschoolers the difference between tools used by grown-ups and toys that are safe for kids to play with.



OBJECTIVES:

- Students will be able to recognize tools that grown-ups use (specifically matches and lighters)
- Students will be able to recognize toys that are safe for them to play with
- Students will be able to demonstrate what to do when they find tools in their environment (Don't touch. Tell a grown-up)

INTRODUCTION:

Read the children a book about tools (such as **Workshop** by Andrew Clements, **Tools** by Claude Delafosse or **The Toolbox** by Anne F. Rockwell). Use the **Safe for Play! Keep Away!** Story cards to have a discussion with the children about match and lighter safety and how matches and lighters are tools (again, focus on how they are tools for grown-ups)

ACTIVITY:

Part 1

- Show the children the tools and talk about how each has a job and who does that job (focus is on the grown-up does the job).
- Have each child share their favorite toy.
- Collect all the toys and tools into one of the three baskets.

Part II

- Have grown-up (teacher or parent volunteer) stand at one empty basket – the “tools” basket
- Have a child stand at the other empty basket – the “toys” basket
- Have each child take turns selecting something from the basket and deciding if it is a tool or a toy
- If it is a tool have the child tell the grown-up they found a tool. The grown-up will come take it and put it in the basket
- If it is a toy have the child put it in the toy basket



**FUN
FIELD TRIP**

**THE SEATTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT & THE KING COUNTY
FIRE & LIFE SAFETY ASSOCIATION INVITE YOU TO**



FIRE DEPARTMENT DAY AT THE BOEING **MUSEUM OF FLIGHT**

FREE CHILD CAR SEAT CHECKS

\$6 BICYCLE HELMETS FITTED TO YOUR CHILD

THE BOEING CLOWNS

FIRE ENGINES

LADDER TRUCKS

RESCUE VEHICLES



FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2003

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

This event is free and open to everyone.

The Museum of Flight will be open and normal admission fees will apply. Located in Seattle at 9404 E. Marginal Way S.

Visit our website at WWW.CITYOFSEATTLE.NET/FIRE

The Seattle Fire Department website provides a great deal of information regarding fire safety. There is also information on how to participate in the Preschool Fire Safety Program and how to schedule a visit with the firefighters for your preschool group.

TEACHING TIPS

BULLETIN BOARD

Create a bulletin board showing things that are "Safe for Play" and things from which to "Keep Away"

CIRCLE TIME

After learning what to do with Matches or Lighters if they are found, have each child share the name of a grown-up they can tell if they ever find Matches or Lighters.

SING-A-LONG SONG (TO THE TUNE "FRÈRE JACQUES")

Never, never play with matches
If you do, if you do,
You might burn your fingers,
you might burn your fingers.
That won't do. That won't do.
Never, never play with matches
If you do, if you do,
You might burn your house down,
you might burn your house down.
That won't do. That won't do.
Never, never play with matches.
If you do, if you do,
You might burn your clothes,
You might burn your clothes,
That won't do! That won't do!

TEACHER RESOURCES

Fire Safety
Education for
Children aged
3 – 5.

**Fire safety
education kits
are
available
for free loan
from the
Seattle Fire
Department
Education
Office by
calling
206.386.1338.**

**Follow-up with
a fire station
tour or visit
from your local
firefighters.**

A PRESCHOOL PROGRAM BY BIC CORPORATION

IDEAL FOR:

- Preschool Teachers and Daycare Providers
- Firefighters

DESCRIPTION:

Teaches four important lessons in fire safety:

- My Friend the Firefighter
- Stop! Drop! And Roll!
- Crawl! Low Under Smoke!
- Safe for Play! Keep Away!

Each **Play safe! Be safe!** kit contains:

- 20-minute video featuring "Firefighter Dan"
- Color story/flash cards
- Dress the Firefighter activity board
- Safe for Play! Keep Away! activity board
- Keep Away! card game
- Comprehensive teacher's manual
and resource book

REFERENCES:

- Endorsement: New York State Professional
Firefighters Association
- Award: Director's Choice Award for
Best Curriculum, *Early Childhood News*, 1997.



*To purchase your own copy for \$12, contact Fireproof Children at 716.385.3370 or
on the web at http://www.fireproof-children.com/resources_besafe.html*

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**FIRE
SAFETY
INFORMATION
FOR
PRESCHOOL
TEACHERS
& DAYCARE
PROVIDERS**

